

# WORLDcat



## What is WorldCat?

- Possibly the most popular database available via OCLC's FirstSearch service.
- One of 12 databases available through Nebraska's statewide FirstSearch subscription.
- A union catalog containing over 84 million records describing material owned by libraries around the world. Materials include:
  - Books, videos, sound recordings, maps, manuscripts, and anything else libraries have cataloged using OCLC's cataloging services.
- Records represent material in over 470 languages and material dating back to 1,000 B.C.
- A great place to go when you're trying to identify and locate an item you don't own locally (because you want to purchase it, refer a patron to it, or request it via ILL).

## How can I access WorldCat?

- Through the unique FirstSearch account assigned to your library (click on the **FirstSearch** link in NebraskAccess).
- Through the streamlined WorldCat-only FirstSearch account customized by NLC (click on the **WorldCat** link in NebraskAccess).

Additional Resources Available to Nebraskans

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Magazines Newspapers</b><br><b>Wilson OmniFile</b><br>Search full text articles from popular magazines and scholarly journals      | <b>elibrary*</b><br>Search full text magazine and newspaper articles, TV/radio transcripts, and more.<br><small>*Not licensed for use in K12 schools</small> |
| <b>Books</b><br><b>WorldCat</b><br>Find books, movies, music and other material owned by libraries around the world.                  | <b>Books in Print</b><br>Identify in-print, out-of-print and forthcoming books. Access synopses, reviews, and more.  |
| <b>Fiction Connection</b><br>Use this readers' advisory tool to discover titles similar to books you already enjoy.                   |  |
| <b>General Reference</b><br><b>Wilson Biographies</b><br>Retrieve full text biographical profiles of notable people, living and dead. | <b>HeritageQuest Online</b><br>Perform genealogical research using the U.S. Census, PERSI, and other historical sources.                                     |
| <b>The Kiplinger Letter</b><br>A weekly newsletter famous for its concise forecasts on business and economic trends.                  | <b>FirstSearch</b><br>Collection of 12 databases, including ArticleFirst, ERIC, and MEDLINE. No full text.   |



## What's the advantage of the WorldCat-only account?



When you login to FirstSearch using the WorldCat link in NebraskAccess, you will be taken directly to the WorldCat Advanced Search screen. The Advanced Search screen contains multiple limit options that can be applied to your search. As a rule, searches conducted via the Advanced Search screen retrieve fewer but more targeted results than those conducted via the Basic Search screen.



## Advanced Search Screen

At the top of the Advanced Search screen you will see **three search boxes** into which you can type words or phrases. The contents of the search boxes can be combined using **Boolean operators** (AND, OR, or NOT).

To the right of each search box is a drop-down menu listing searchable indexes in WorldCat. Use the menu to select the index in which you'd like to search for your particular word or phrase.

Search for:  Keyword  

and  Keyword  

and  Keyword  

Most searching can be successfully conducted using the following five indexes:

- **Keyword** – Searches multiple indexes, including the Author, Title, Notes, and Subject indexes. This is the default search index.
- **Author** – Searches all of the following indexes: Author, Corporate and Conference Name, and Personal Name. Name order doesn't matter.
- **Subject** – Searches the following indexes: Descriptor, Genre/Form, Geographic Coverage, Named Corporation and Conference, and Named Person.
- **Title** – Searches the Title index and the Series Title index.
- **Accession Number** – Each record in WorldCat is assigned a unique accession number. If you know the accession number assigned to the record you are interested in, an accession number search will retrieve just that record.

Keyword

Access Method

Accession Number

Author

Author Phrase

Corporate and Conference Name

Corporate and Conference Name Phrase

Personal Name

Personal Name Phrase

Language Phrase

Material Type

Material Type Phrase

Musical Composition

Musical Composition Phrase

Notes/Comments

Publisher

Publisher Location

Standard Number

ISBN

ISSN

Subject

Subject Phrase

Descriptor

Genre/Form

Geographic Coverage


Named Corporation and Conference

Named Person

Title

Title Phrase

Series Title

 **Phrase Indexes:** In addition to the five indexes listed above, the drop-down menu lists a number of “Phrase” indexes (e.g. *Author Phrase*, *Subject Phrase*, *Title Phrase*). Phrase indexes are useful when you need precision (e.g. two authors share the same name and you need to be able to specify which one you're interested in), but they are also unforgiving. If the search string you type in varies even slightly from the contents of the indexed field, you won't retrieve the record(s) you are searching for. For example, an Author Phrase search for **Baum, Frank** won't retrieve records containing **Baum, L. Frank** in the Author field.



## STOP & SEARCH

**Search #1 – Perform an AUTHOR / TITLE search to retrieve records describing *Lean Mean Thirteen* by Janet Evanovich**

- How many records did you retrieve? \_\_\_\_\_
- What formats are available? \_\_\_\_\_

## List of Records

- Records are displayed 10 per screen.
- Records are listed by the number of libraries that hold the item. Commonly held items (items held by the most libraries) display higher in the list.
- Document type tabs break results down by document type. Click on a tab to display only records for that document type.
- Document type icons to the left of each record indicate item format.
- Smaller icons within the brief record may provide additional information about format, e.g. VHS vs. DVD.

The screenshot shows a library search results page for the query "Lean mean thirteen" by Janet Evanovich. The page displays 10 records, sorted by the number of libraries holding the item. The records are as follows:

- 1. **Lean mean thirteen /**  
Author: Evanovich, Janet. Publication: New York : St. Martin's Press, 2007  
Document: English : Book : Fiction : Internet Resource  
**Libraries Worldwide: 884**  
More Like This: [Search for versions with same title and author](#) | [Advanced options ...](#)  
[See more details for locating this item](#)
- 2. **Lean mean thirteen /**  
Author: Evanovich, Janet.  
Publication: New York : Random House Large Print, 2007  
Document: English : Book : Fiction : **LARGE PRINT**  
**Libraries Worldwide: 381**  
More Like This: [Search for versions with same title and author](#) | [Advanced options ...](#)  
[See more details for locating this item](#)
- 3. **Lean mean thirteen**  
Author: Evanovich, Janet.; King, Lorelei. Publication: New York : Audio Renaissance, 2007  
Document: English : Sound Recording : Non-music : Fiction : **Compact disc**  
**Libraries Worldwide: 245**  
More Like This: [Search for versions with same title and author](#) | [Advanced options ...](#)  
[See more details for locating this item](#)
- 9. **Lean Mean Thirteen.**  
Publication: Audio Renaissance 2007  
Document: English : Book  
**Libraries Worldwide: 1**  
More Like This: [Advanced options ...](#)  
[See more details for locating this item](#)
- 10. **Lean mean thirteen a Stephanie Plum novel /**  
Author: Evanovich, Janet.; King, Lorelei. Publication: New York : Audio Renaissance, 2007  
Document: English : Sound Recording : Non-music : Fiction : **Cassette tape**  
**Libraries Worldwide: 27**  
More Like This: [Search for versions with same title and author](#) | [Advanced options ...](#)  
[See more details for locating this item](#)

The page includes a search bar at the top right with the text "Search". Below the search bar, there are tabs for "All 14", "Books 8", and "Sound 6". A "Limit results" section shows "Any Audience", "Any Content", and "Any Format". At the bottom left, there are buttons for "Clear Marks" and "Mark All". At the bottom right, there is a play button icon. Arrows labeled a, b, c, d, and e point to specific elements on the page: a points to the record list, b points to the "Libraries Worldwide" count, c points to the "Sound" tab, d points to the document type icon, and e points to the "LARGE PRINT" text.

## Detailed Records

To retrieve the detailed record for item #3 in the result list pictured above, click on its title. In addition to providing traditional bibliographic information, such as author, title, publisher, etc., detailed records may also include:

- Cover art
- Abstract
- Cite This Item link
- Item length (# of pages / discs / hours)
- Abridged / Unabridged
- Narrator – appears in author and notes field
- Accession number
- Libraries worldwide that own item link

**Lean mean thirteen**

Janet Evanovich; Lorelei King

2007

English Sound Recording : Non-music : Fiction : Compact disc 7 sound discs (7.5 hr.) : digital ; 4 3/4 in.  
New York : Audio Renaissance, ; ISBN: 9781427201188 1427201188

Trenton, New Jersey, bounty hunter Stephanie Plum, along with her offbeat family and associates, embarks on her thirteenth perilous adventure.

**GET THIS ITEM**

Availability: **Check the catalogs in your library.**

- Libraries worldwide that own item: 247
- Connect to the catalog at your library

External Resources: [Cite This Item](#)

**FIND RELATED**

More Like This: [Search for versions with same title and author](#) | [Advanced options ...](#)

Find Items About: [Evanovich, Janet.](#) (2)

Title: **Lean mean thirteen**

Author(s): [Evanovich, Janet.](#)  
[King, Lorelei.](#) ; (Narrator - nrt)

Publication: New York ;; Audio Renaissance,  
Year: 2007

Description: 7 sound discs (7.5 hr.) ;; digital ;; 4 3/4 in.  
Language: English

Standard No: ISBN: 9781427201188; 1427201188

Abstract: Trenton, New Jersey, bounty hunter Stephanie Plum, along with her offbeat family and associates, embarks on her thirteenth perilous adventure.

SUBJECT(S)

Descriptor: [Audiobooks.](#)

Note(s): Unabridged. / Compact discs. / **Participants:** Read by Lorelei King.

Class Descriptors: LC: [PS3553 V2126](#); Dewey: [813/.54](#)

Responsibility: by [Janet Evanovich.](#)

Vendor Info: Baker and Taylor (BTCP)

Material Type: Fiction (fic); Non-musical recording (nsr); CD audio (cda)

Document Type: Sound Recording

Entry: 20070611  
Update: 20070625

Accession No: OCLC: 143090146

Database: WorldCat





Holdings information is **ONLY** available for libraries that use OCLC's cataloging service!



Don't assume an item is not available from a library just because that library doesn't appear in the "Libraries with item" list associated with a particular record. If the item is available in multiple editions/formats (e.g., hardback, paperback), remember to check the holdings information associated with those other editions/formats too.

## Advanced Search Screen Limit Options

Being able to limit searches in a large database like WorldCat is very useful. The WorldCat Advanced Search screen offers the following limit options:

1. Year
2. Language
3. Number of Libraries
4. Document Type
5. Audience
6. Content
7. Format
8. Library Code



### STOP & SEARCH

**Search #2 – Perform an AUTHOR / TITLE search to retrieve records describing *Holes* by Louis Sachar.**

▪ How many records did you retrieve? \_\_\_\_\_

**Redo your search, only this time limit it to Spanish-language print editions.**

▪ Now how many records did you retrieve? \_\_\_\_\_

▪ How many Nebraska libraries own Spanish-language print editions?

Please list them here: \_\_\_\_\_

## Subject Searching

So far we've searched WorldCat for know items using author/title searches. Now I'd like to switch gears and show you how you can use WorldCat to search for material on particular topics when you don't have a specific author or title in mind. This is useful for collection development, as well as when you are trying to identify material to request via interlibrary loan for a patron.



## STOP & SEARCH

**Search #3 – A local teacher is looking for up-to-date non-fiction books on weather to use with her students. She'd like publication dates of 2000 or later. Using WorldCat, can you retrieve a list of titles that might work for her?**

- What search term(s) did you use? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which index did you select from the drop-down menu? \_\_\_\_\_
- What search limiters did you use? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- How many records did you retrieve? \_\_\_\_\_

**Redo your search, only this time also limit to items owned by Grand Island Public Library (Library Code: GIP).**

- Now how many records did you retrieve? \_\_\_\_\_

## Identifying Official Subject Headings

If your initial search terms retrieve satisfactory results you probably don't need to concern yourself with "official" subject headings. However, if you're not happy with your results, taking the time to identify and use official subject headings can make a huge difference in their quality!

There are two main strategies you can use to identify official subject headings. The easiest strategy may be to identify one item that is really "on topic." Once you've done this, pull up the detailed record for the item. Scroll down to the Descriptor field to see which official subject headings have been assigned to it. If one of these subject headings looks spot on, then redo your search using that subject heading.

For example, say you are looking for books for a patron who has been diagnosed with a slipped disk.

A keyword search on *slipped disk* produces less than stellar results—a total of 42 records, 21 of which are books.

The screenshot shows a WorldCat search results page with the following details:

- Limit results:** Any Audience, Any Content, Any Format
- Search results:** 42 records (Books: 21, Visual: 10, Sound: 7, Internet: 2, Computer: 2)
- Results list:**
  - Magill's medical guide.**  
 Author: Chang, Anne.  
 Publication: Pasadena, Calif. : Salem Press, 2005  
 Document: English : Book  
 Libraries Worldwide: 777  
[See more details for locating this item](#)
  - Back and neck sourcebook : basic consumer health information about spinal pain, spinal cord injuries, and related disorders, such as degenerative disk disease, osteoarthritis, scoliosis, sciatica, spina bifida, and spinal stenosis, and featuring facts about maintaining spinal health, self-care, pain management, rehabilitative care, chiropractic care, spinal surgeries, and complementary therapies; along with suggestions for preventing back and neck pain, a glossary of related terms, and a directory of resources /**  
 Author: Sutton, Amy L. Publication: Detroit, MI : Omnigraphics, 2004  
 Document: English : Book, Internet Resource  
 Libraries Worldwide: 374  
[See more details for locating this item](#)
  - The slipped disc /**  
 Author: Cyriax, James Henry.  
 Publication: New York : C. Scribner's Sons, 1980  
 Document: English : Book  
 Libraries Worldwide: 128  
[See more details for locating this item](#)
  - Back microsurgery**  
 Author: Willis, Donna L.; Fehlings, Michael. Publication: Princeton, N.J. : Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 1993  
 Document: English : Visual Material : Videorecording : VHS tape  
 Libraries Worldwide: 79



(Note: A search on *slipped disc* where disc is spelled with a “c” retrieves 349 records, but most describe compact discs that include songs containing the word slipped!)

Record #3 in the screenshot above looks like it is on our topic, even though the publication date may be a bit old. To see what subject headings have been assigned to this item, click on its title to retrieve the detailed record.

As you can see from the screenshot to the right, several official subject headings have been assigned to this item.

Of these, the one that looks like it would most likely be assigned to material about slipped disks is **Intervertebral disk displacement** – nothing you’d ever come up with on your own!

Now redo your search using this official subject heading. Do this by returning to the search screen, typing Intervertebral disk displacement in the first search box, and selecting SUBJECT from the drop-down menu, or just click on the subject heading within the record.

**The slipped disc /**  
James Henry Cyriax

1980 3d ed.  
English Book xvii, 236 p., [4] leaves of plates : ill. ; 23 cm.  
New York : C. Scribner's Sons, ; ISBN: 0684166461 : 9780684166469

**GET THIS ITEM**

Availability: Check the catalogs in your library.  
• Libraries worldwide that own item: 128  
• Connect to the catalog at your library

External Resources: • Cite This Item

**FIND RELATED**

More Like This: Search for versions with same title and author | Advanced options ...  
Find Items About: Cyriax, James Henry. (3)

**Title:** The slipped disc /  
**Author(s):** Cyriax, James Henry.  
**Publication:** New York : C. Scribner's Sons,  
**Edition:** 3d ed.  
**Year:** 1980  
**Description:** xvii, 236 p., [4] leaves of plates : ill. ; 23 cm.  
**Language:** English  
**Standard No:** ISBN: 0684166461 : 9780684166469 LCCN: 80-50649

**SUBJECT(S)**

**Descriptor:** Intervertebral disk displacement.  
Backache.  
Intervertebral Disk Displacement.  
Disques intervertébraux -- Déplacement.  
Dorsalgie.

Note(s): Includes index / Bibliography. p. 229-230.

A SUBJECT search for **Intervertebral disk displacement** will retrieve approximately 260 records, 160 of which describe books. All retrieved records appear to be on the right topic!



## STOP & SEARCH

**Search #4 – A patron would like to get some “how-to” books on carving gourds. Using WorldCat, can you retrieve a list of titles that might work for her?**

**Start out with a KEYWORD or SUBJECT search on the term *gourds*.**

- How many results did you retrieve? \_\_\_\_\_
- How would you characterize them? \_\_\_\_\_

**Now try a KEYWORD search on *carving gourds*.**

- How many results did you retrieve? \_\_\_\_\_



- How would you characterize them? \_\_\_\_\_

Scan your results in order to identify the item that comes closest to being a “how-to” book on carving gourds.

- What is the title of the item? \_\_\_\_\_
- What subject heading has been assigned to it? \_\_\_\_\_

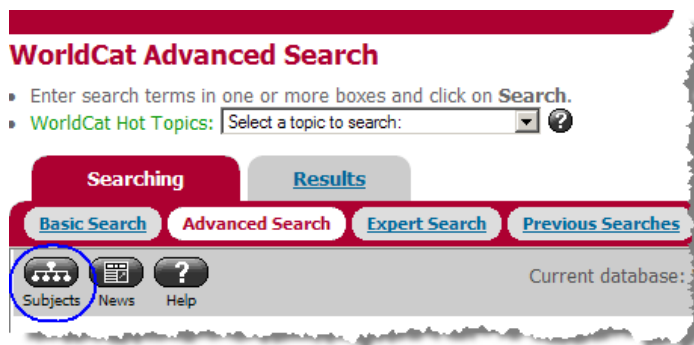
Redo your search, only this time try a SUBJECT search using your newly identified subject heading.

- How many records did you retrieve? \_\_\_\_\_
- How would you characterize them? \_\_\_\_\_

## Find Preferred Subject Headings

A second method of identifying official subject headings is to use the “Find preferred subjects” button. This button appears in the upper-left-hand portion of the WorldCat Advanced Search screen.

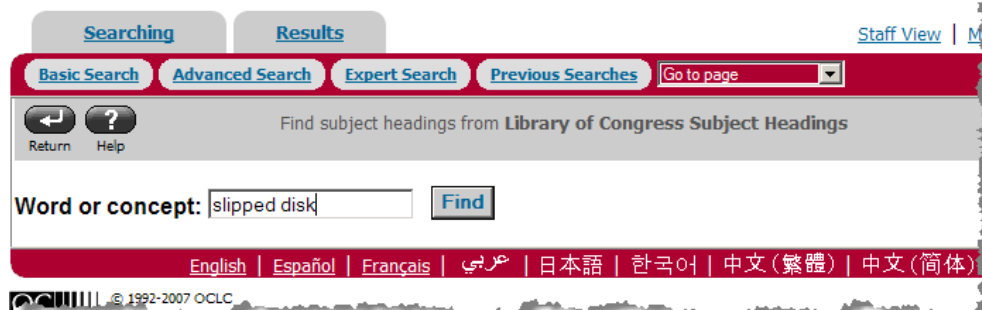
Click on the button to go to the Find Preferred Subject Headings screen.



This screen consists of a single search box into which you are prompted to type a word or concept. If we wanted to try to find the official subject heading to use when searching for material about slipped disks, for instance, we could type in *slipped disk* and click on **Find**.

## Find Preferred Subject Headings

Use this screen to find the subject headings used in **WorldCat**. Enter a word or concept in the box and click on **Find**.

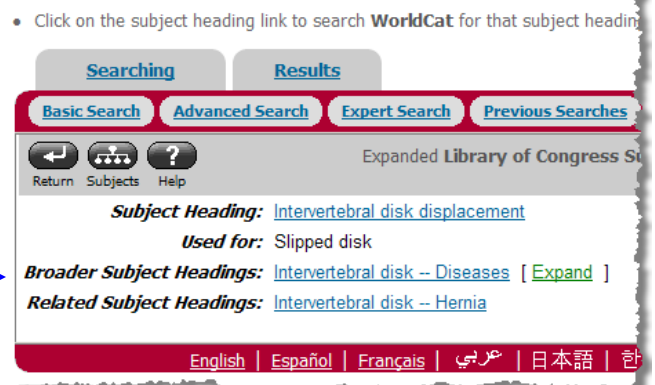


Since *slipped disk* is a “Used for” term for the official subject heading, we get a referral to *Intervertebral disk displacement*. At this point we can click directly on the official subject heading to launch a new search, or we can click on the green **Expand** link to display broader, narrower, and related subject headings.

### Preferred Subject Headings



### Expanded Subject Heading



### STOP & SEARCH

**Search #5 –** A patron is worried about his wife who is experiencing a lot of stress at work. Use the “Find preferred subjects” button to identify an official subject heading that will retrieve works on this topic.

- What is the official subject heading? \_\_\_\_\_
- Can you also identify a broader subject heading? \_\_\_\_\_
- How about a narrower subject heading? \_\_\_\_\_